WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A photolithography system comprising:

at least one lens for transmitting a predetermined radiation on a predetermined substrate; and

a fluid volume in contact with the lens on its first end and with the substrate on its second end,

wherein the fluid volume has a molar concentration of hydroxyl ions more than 10^{-7} mole per liter.

- 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a radiation source providing an electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of about 193 nm or less.
- 3. The system of claim 1 further comprising a radiation source providing an electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of about 157 nm or less.
- 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the lens has a numerical aperture size between about 0.75 and 0.85.
- 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the lens has a numerical aperture size between about 0.85 and 1.05.
 - 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the lens is made of silicon oxide.
 - 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the lens is made of calcium fluoride.
 - 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the fluid volume includes water.
- 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the fluid volume includes metal hydroxide.

- 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is less than about 10-1 mole per liter.
- 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is between about 10^{-3} mole and about 10^{-5} mole per liter.
- 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is between about 10-5 mole and about 10-7 mole per liter.
- 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the substrate has a radiation sensitive material.
- 14. The system of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a semiconductor substrate material with a photoresist material formed thereon.
 - 15. A photolithography system comprising:

a radiation source providing an electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of about 193 nm or less;

at least one lens for transmitting a predetermined radiation from the radiation source on a predetermined substrate; and

a fluid volume in contact with the lens on its first end and with the substrate on its second end,

wherein the fluid volume has a molar concentration of hydroxyl ions between about 10^{-7} mole per liter and about 10^{-1} mole per liter.

- 16. The system of claim 15 wherein the lens has a numerical aperture size between about 0.75 and 0.85.
- 17. The system of claim 15 wherein the lens has a numerical aperture size between about 0.85 and 1.05.

- 18. The system of claim 15 wherein the lens is made of silicon oxide.
- 19. The system of claim 15 wherein the lens is made of calcium fluoride.
- 20. The system of claim 15 wherein the fluid volume includes de-ionized water.
- 21. The system of claim 15 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is between about 10⁻³ mole per liter and about 10⁻⁵ mole per liter.
- 22. The system of claim 15 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is between about 10⁻⁵ mole per liter and about 10⁻⁷ mole per liter.
- 23. The system of claim 15 wherein the substrate has a radiation sensitive material formed thereon.
- 24. The system of claim 15 wherein the substrate is a semiconductor substrate material with a photoresist material formed thereon.
- 25. The system of claim 15 wherein the fluid volume includes NaOH in an aqueous solution.
- 26. The system of claim 15 wherein the fluid volume includes CaOH in an aqueous solution.
- 27. The system of claim 15 wherein the fluid volume includes KOH in an aqueous solution.
- 28. A method for conducting immersion photolithography, the method comprising:

placing a substrate to be in contact with a fluid volume on its first end;

placing at least one lens in contact with the fluid volume on its second end;

and

providing an electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of about 193 nm or less for transmitting a predetermined radiation through the lens on a predetermined substrate,

wherein the fluid volume has a molar concentration of hydroxyl ions more than about 10^{-7} mole per liter.

- 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the fluid volume includes water.
- 30. The method of claim 28 wherein the lens has a numerical aperture size between about 0.75 and about 0.85.
- 31. The method of claim 28 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is between about 10⁻³ mole per liter and about 10⁻⁵ mole per liter.
- 32. The method of claim 28 wherein the molar concentration of hydroxyl ions is between about 10⁻⁵ mole per liter and about 10⁻⁷ mole per liter.
- 33. The method of claim 28 wherein the substrate is a semiconductor substrate material with a photoresist material formed thereon.